

## AQUATIC COMMONS AND OPEN ACCESS: THE TECHNOLOGY AND BEYOND

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(Chair).

### **Aquatic Commons Board**

Jean Collins (FAO representative)

Fred Merceur (IFREMER)

Peter Pissierssens (IOC representative)

Lisa Raymond (MBL/WHOI)

Helen Wibley (ASFA Secretariat)

Joan Parker (IAMSLIC President, ex officio)

Pauline Simpson, (formerly of Southampton)

In 2007, IAMSLIC launched the [Aquatic Commons repository](http://aquacomm.fcla.edu) at <http://aquacomm.fcla.edu>. It was designed to facilitate the exchange of scientific research and management information related to the world's marine/aquatic environments and to offer repository services where local, stable IT support is lacking. Stable IT support includes organizations that have web sites that are not OAI compliant. It is this compliance that allows the metadata from digital resources to be recombined globally to serve diverse research interests.

## Aquatic Commons



Welcome to Aquatic Commons

The Aquatic Commons digital repository is an online, growing collection of published and unpublished research, organizational publications, and other scholarly materials contributed by marine/aquatic researchers, librarians, and their institutions. It is funded and directed by the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers.

Atom RSS 1.0 RSS 2.0

### [Latest Additions](#)

View items added to the repository in the past week.

### [Search Repository](#)

Search the repository using Advanced Search options.

### [Browse Repository](#)

Browse the items in the repository by subject.

### [About this Repository](#)

More information about this site.

The repository runs on [EPrints software](#) created at the University of Southampton and is run under contract with the [Florida Center for Library Automation](#). It is managed by the Aquatic Commons Board appointed by IAMS LIC and supported by IAMS LIC and the FAO FishCode Programme.

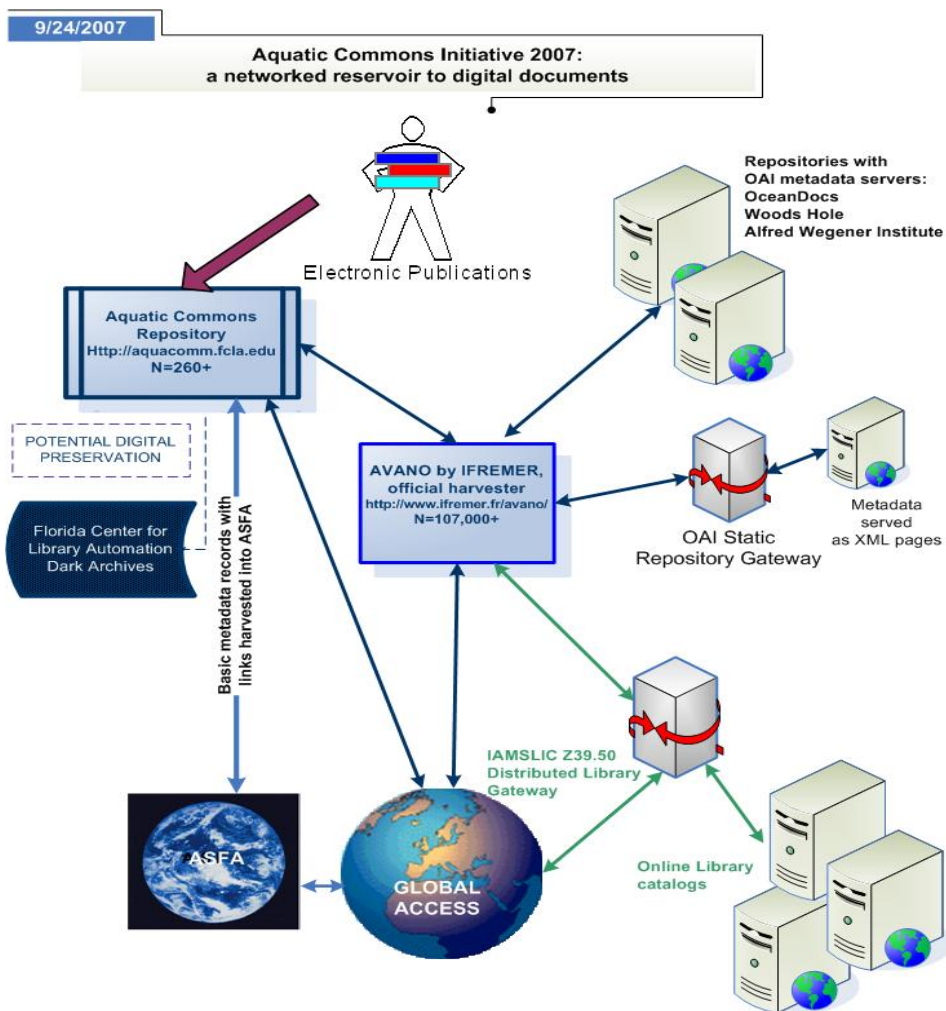
It is currently registered for harvesting with AVANO, DOAR, Google, SCIRUS, and OPENDOAR, and OAIster. OAI access is <http://aquacomm.fcla.edu/cgi/oai2?verb=Identify>

## **Background**

The Aquatic Commons repository represents IAMS LIC's second major foray into the development of resource sharing projects. The first, highly successful endeavor, is the IAMS LIC Z39.50 distributed library that supports the exchange of interlibrary loan requests between IAMS LIC members.

This was developed as a joint project of the IAMS LIC Resource Sharing Committee; Steve Watkins at the California State University, Monterey Bay Library; and the NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, South Carolina, USA. It was modeled on the Coastal Information Library developed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center and utilizes the [PHP/YAZ](#) open source Z39.50 protocols. A complete discussion of this project can be found in "Resource Sharing within an International Library Network: using technology and professional cooperation to bridge the waters," by Barbara Butler, Janet Webster, Steve Watkins, and James Markham, published in the *IFLA Journal*, Vol. 32, No. 3, 189-199 (2006) [online at <http://ifl.sagepub.com/cgi/content/refs/32/3/189> accessed 9/22/2007]

The second major project has been the development of the Aquatic Commons repository. This is a pivotal component of the larger Aquatic Commons Initiative, a strategic model for interfacing diverse digital platforms and services to support information sharing among the aquatic and marine sciences. This model was developed largely as a result of Pauline Simpson's tireless efforts to ensure that IAMS LIC members participated in the development of global open access initiatives. In the first phase of adopting the model, the building of an IAMS LIC-directed repository and harvester were targeted.



Fred Merceur of IFREMER, France jump started this phase by programming the **AVANO** harvester. Located at <http://www.ifremer.fr/avano/>, the harvester currently has over 107,000 records from 152 repositories including IAMS LIC's Aquatic Commons repository.

### **The Aquatic Commons Repository**

During 2006, the Aquatic Commons initiative was reviewed by the IAMS LIC Board and the creation of the repository and harvester approved in principle. An Aquatic Commons Implementation Team: Stephanie C. Haas (Chair), Ann Devenish, Jean Collins, Snowdy Dodson, Peter Pissierssens, Pauline Simpson, Simon Wilkinson, Steve Watkins, were

tasked with implementing the "Aquatic Commons" in the most economical fashion consistent with the best use of existing resources, e.g., investigate existing repositories among members and partners like IOC. Final recommendations were to: 1) ensure that the final product was IAMS LIC-owned, and 2) to come up with a plan for raising additional funds. The Implementation Team's final report may be found at [http://www.iamslc.org/files/resourcesmodule/@random44773c1f19126/1159464414\\_A CR.pdf](http://www.iamslc.org/files/resourcesmodule/@random44773c1f19126/1159464414_A CR.pdf)

Discussions and voting at the 2006 annual IAMS LIC meeting led to the selection and funding of an EPrints installation of Aquatic Commons. Version 3, the newest release at the time, was implemented and is being supported by the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA).

As with any new version implementation, the FCLA development team hit its fair share of snags. Chuck Thomas, the project manager, and Liang Zhong, the programmer, worked diligently to get the basic functionality that is now in place and that will carry the project through until the next major update, expected at the end of 2007. Chris Gutteridge and Les Carr, developers of the EPrints software, also lent assistance on particularly difficult problems.

As of December 3, 2007, there were 416 items in the repository.

### **Working Groups Formed for 2007-2008**

Because of the many aspects of repository building and functioning, a small group of interested IAMS LIC members met in November to assess the best method for moving the Aquatic Commons initiative forward. Following recommendations from this group, three working groups have been formed: Content Development, Metadata, and Technology. Several members have been invited to join these working groups, although final composition is still being determined. The charges and membership will be reported through the list and the newsletter when complete.

### **Projected Activities for the Coming Year**

The activities that have been identified for completion in the coming year include:

1. Upgrade to EPrints version 3.1
2. Refine citation display and, as necessary, metadata elements
3. The Content Development Working Group will be liaising with the ASFA Secretariat and Board as they identify and contribute ASFA member digital content.
4. Continue to identify partnerships for content development for both Aquatic Commons and Avano, the IFREMER harvester.